

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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disability@harfordcountymd.gov

Meeting Minutes May 21, 2012

Attendance:

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Associate Members Present:
Susan Austin	Niki Biggs	
Helene Dubay	Reverend Ellison	
Keith England	Councilman Guthrie	
Kathy Halliday	Michael Mathias	
Laurie Kwiedorowicz	Tracy Moore	
Ben Mayforth		
Marc Weinstein		
Andrea Wiley		

- I. Chairperson Marc Weinstein called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. Introductions followed.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the April 23, 2012 meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Committee Reports:
 - A. Membership:
 1. The Commission is accepting applications for the following vacancies on the Commission.
 - Two county citizens with disabilities; and
 - One representative of an agency serving persons with disabilities.
 2. The deadline for applications is June 22, 2012. Application forms are available at <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/boards/BoardCommissionApp.pdf> or by contacting Sharon Grzanka at 41-638-3373 voice/TTY or at disability@harfordcountymd.gov.
 - B. Employment Committee:
 1. The Annual Employment Awards Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2012, at the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs.

2. The next meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the Aberdeen Workforce Center.
- C. Accessibility Committee
1. Fair Housing Services: No new information.
 2. Accessible County Facilities: No new information.
 3. Request for Waiver of the MD Accessibility Code: No new requests.
 4. Ramps Program: No new information.
 5. Operation Access: No new information.
- D. Education Committee: No new information.
- E. Government and Community Relations Committee:
1. Web page: Commissioners interested in researching agencies to focus under the “Spotlight on Services” are asked to contact Sharon Grzanka.
 2. Legislative Committee: Laurie Kwiedorowicz presented a summary of disability-related legislation from the 2012 Maryland General Assembly Session.
- F. Voice of the Disability Community:
1. Maryland Alliance of Local Commissions and Committees on Disabilities: The next meeting will be held on June 4, 2012 in Howard County.
 2. Maryland Youth Leadership Forum: Several Harford County students applied to attend the Youth Leadership Forum to be held June 26 - 29, 2012. Helene Dubay suggested that the Commission invite the student delegates from Harford County to attend a Commission meeting after the forum to discuss their experience.
 3. Jurisdictional Planning Group: No new information.
- G. Transportation Committee: The transportation committee met on April 27, 2012. Marc Weinstein reported that:
1. Work continues on the webinar;
 2. Harford Transit will launch a new website with a target date of July 1.
 3. The Route 7 bus service to Cecil County is experiencing increased ridership.
 4. Ridership on the New Freedom Extender Service has increased. Harford Transit LINK Administrator Jim Ports

attributes the increase to outreach, training, the availability of online applications, etc.

- IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: Dawn Volkart of Harford Community College invited the Commission to an outreach event at the college on October 3, 2012, from noon until 2:00 p.m., to highlight Disability Awareness Month. The theme of the event is "Making Waves in Disabilities Support" and will involve a special activity. More information to follow.
- V. Old Business: There was none.
- VI. New Business: *Art Without Boundaries*
 - A. The Commission and the Harford County Cultural Arts Board, in cooperation with the Harford Community College's Visual, Performing and Applied Arts Division, will host an art exhibit from July 13 through August 31, 2012. The exhibit, *Art Without Boundaries*, will feature work by artists with and without disabilities in the Student Gallery at Joppa Hall, Harford Community College.
 - B. Natalie Weeks, Cultural Arts Board Coordinator, will accept submissions, both two and three dimensional, on Monday, July 9, 2012, from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at the student gallery.
 - C. On Thursday, July 26, 2012, a reception marking the 22nd anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act will be held from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Student Gallery.
 - D. The Commission voted to cancel its July 23, 2012 meeting so that Commissioners can attend the reception on July 26th.
- VII. Public Comment and Announcements:
 - A. Keith England reported that Chimes is not currently hiring for custodial positions at Aberdeen Proving Ground and that employee hours had been cut.
 - B. Kathy Halliday reported that Jim Dickerson, Supervisor of the Bel Air Office of the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services, has announced his retirement.
- VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

This document is available in alternative format upon request:
410-638-3373 voice/TTY or disability@harfordcountymd.gov.

2012 Legislative Review
As of 21 May 12

(Proposals removed when no activity for over 30 days
or receipt of Unfavorable Report)

HB 8/ SB 175: Electronic Communication; Harassment. Prohibits the use of electronic communications to maliciously engage in harassing conduct. Makes such conduct a misdemeanor punishable by prison not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding \$500. Signed into law on April 10, 2012.

HB 9: Education-Children and Youth- Reporting Information Concerning Student Health, Well-Being and Growth. Proposes a change to the school services and instruction in health education to include diabetes, treating and controlling diabetes, and other age appropriate issues. Signed into law on May 2, 2012.

SB 214: Possession of Marijuana, De Minimis Quantity. Reduces the fees and potential imprisonment for use or possession of less than 14 grams of marijuana. Signed into law on May 2, 2012.

HB 53: Higher Education- Community Colleges- Tuition Waiver for Disabled Individuals. Proposes to change the requirement for obtaining an exemption from tuition payments at community colleges for students with disabilities enrolled in courses for continuing education designed to lead to employment, including life skills instruction. Requires proof of a disability approved by the SSA, OPM, or the RRB. The exemption would be applied for 6 to 12 credits. Signed into law on April 10, 2012.

SB 18/ HB 252: Task Force on Military Service Members, Veterans, and the Courts. Proposes the creation and staffing of a task force to study military service related mental health issues and substance abuse issues, and make recommendations before December 2013. Also proposes the creation of a special court for defendants who are military members or veterans. Signed into law on May 2, 2012.

SB 58: Education- Children in Informal Kinship Care Relationships- Payments for Students with Disabilities—Funding. Proposes to change the definitions for funding educational opportunities for students with disabilities in a living relationship with a relative providing for the child due to a serious family hardship, and not in the care, custody or guardianship of the local department of social services. Funding is proposed to cover educational

environments deemed to be a “least restrictive environment” and receives special education in regular education settings (for less than 40% of the day) and in separate public day facilities that does not include programs for students without disabilities (for greater than 50% of the day). Passed in the House and Senate.

SB 121: Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program-Sunset Extension. Proposes to extend the termination date of the program until 2014. Signed into law on April 10, 2012.

SB 173: Public School Buildings- Carbon Monoxide Detection and Warning Equipment. Requires public schools under construction or substantially remodeled to have carbon monoxide detection systems placed in certain area and requires the detectors to be automatically transmitted to certain locations. Signed into law on April 10, 2012.

SB 167: Tax Credits for Qualifying Employees with Disabilities- Sunset Repeal. This is the annual proposal repealing the termination provisions and extending the dates of applicability for specific tax credits provided in exchange for hiring qualified individuals with disabilities. Signed into law on April 10, 2012.

SB 231: Individuals with Disabilities-Attendant Care Program. Proposes to alter the sliding pay scales used by the Attendant Care Program to pay for specific services and alters the description of eligibility for individuals at risk of nursing home placement. Passed in the House and Senate.

SB 656: Community Colleges- Tuition Waivers-Inclusion of Fees. Adds college fees into the definition of “tuition.” Signed into law on April 10, 2012.

SB 804: Human Services- Service Animal Trainers- Nondiscrimination. Proposes a change to the existing state laws to include the same benefits for service animal trainers who are accompanied by a service animal that is being trained or raised for that purpose. Signed into law on May 2, 2012.

Two additional web sites that may be of interest:

<http://mlis.state.md.us/2012rs/90-day-report/The90DayReport.pdf>

<http://dls.state.md.us/>